

Mayor's Commission on Poverty Reduction

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: June 19, 2014

Minutes Prepared By: Susan Perry/Nora Farrell

1. Purpose of Meeting: To receive report and provide budget priorities to City Council

2. Attendance at Meeting

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| Mayor Fraim | Vice Mayor Williams | Sharon Riley | Sarah Bishop |
| Chief Goldsmith | Nash Bilisoly | Sandra Brandt | Joe Dillard |
| Gary Bryant | Hosey Burgess | Clarence Coleman | James Wofford |
| Linda Rice | Anthony DiFilippo | David Harnage | William Harrell |
| Kurt Hofelich | Sarah Sterzing | Kirk Houston | James Rogers |
| Adale Martin | Sharon Riley | Joe Baron | Thaler McCormick |
| Chuck McPhillips | Suzanne Puryear | Kim Brown | L'Tanya Simmons |

3. Agenda

1. Welcome/Overview
 - Roundtable with Commissioners on updates
 - Major components of plan
 - Considerations moving forward
2. Budgetary Guidance to City Leadership
3. Evaluation of Process and Results
4. Closing Remarks

4. Meeting Notes, Decisions, Issues

- I. Welcoming Remarks – Mayor Fraim
 - a. Mayor Fraim welcomed the group and thanked them for their year-long dedication to this important work. He noted that he wasn't ready to call an end to this group and requested that the group get back together in the future to check in and see where we are in terms of progress.
 - b. Saphira stated how rewarding it was to bring together all of their work in this document, and how grateful she is that they have stayed with the process through these nine months and produced such excellent and thoughtful results. She noted that while it hasn't always been easy to reach consensus, there have been some vigorous and important debates that will continue and will strengthen the work. She thanked everyone for their edits, comments, and suggestions on the report. and stated that she hopes they are proud of the work they produced and feel that their perspectives and ideas were shared.
 - c. Saphira stated that her role ends tonight and this plan now becomes a community plan. She stated that all strategies will not be completed in order, but rather will be aligned with community plans and incremental steps will be made in each area.
 - d. Saphira noted she had met with Thad Williamson out of Richmond who noted that Norfolk has always been a model for mixed income housing and he sees the benefits of the public-private partnership the Commission has included in the report. The importance of a public-private collaboration from the beginning is important for long term sustainability.
 - e. Saphira gave a special thanks to Susan Perry and the City staff for their organization, expertise, and behind the scenes leadership.
 - f. Saphira reviewed the agenda and noted that today's meeting is about looking back on the work and looking forward to next steps. There will be three parts: quick review and reminder of plan; request for input on budgetary priorities; and an evaluation of the process, followed by closing remarks from Commissioners and our leaders.
- II. Updates

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- a. Saphira Baker opened the floor for Commission members to discuss any events in the community, pertinent research, or updates from workgroups that impact the work of the Commission.
 - i. Sarah Bishop – Thanks to a Hampton Roads Community Foundation grant, the United Way United for Children will be able to include Tidewater Park in its summer program this summer, modeling it after the PB Young program. She also mentioned they are looking to blend the two neighborhoods (Youngs Terrace and Tidewater Park) through line dancing and zumba classes in order to break down barriers.
 - 1. Kim Brown asked how the Long Shoreman can get involved.
 - ii. Thaler McCormick – Notes that For Kids also received \$15,000 grant from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation for the Hot Meals & Homework program that will examine the impact mobility has on school test scores. They will test the pilot at an elementary school in Virginia Beach and Norfolk (1 elementary school and about 80 kids) in the first year. ODU will do the evaluation. This program was based on a model in Charlotte.
 - iii. Sarah Sterzing – Mentioned that CHIP provided a baby shower to all of the pregnant women in Tidewater Park and had an opportunity to connect all of those women with services.
- b. Saphira also asked for Commissioners to reflect on what's worked well in the process as well as note the challenges.
 - i. Kurt Hofelich thanked the subject matter experts that participated in the workgroups and noted that he appreciated learning more about the collective impact model and how the recommendations grew from connecting the dots.
 - ii. Hosey Burgess said that he appreciated that we looked at issues from every vantage point and how helpful that was, especially for people who don't work with this issue every day
 - iii. Thaler McCormick noted that she has been impressed with the dedication and participation from the Commissioners, leadership. and staff during the course of the last year.
 - iv. Suzanne Puryear agreed that she appreciated how much they were able to learn from one another, and how the Commission pulled people who don't do this type of work every day together. Collectively, they were stronger.
 - v. James Rogers appreciated the public input and recognized that it was key to the process. He thought we received great insight into the development to the plan.

III. Budgetary Guidance to City Leadership

- a. Saphira reviewed the estimated costs for many of the action steps, and took comments and suggestions for refinement. She asks everyone to consider his or her handout a worksheet and on their own indicate the following: If you have \$2 million dollars to spend this year, what will you do with it? She notes that it is okay to put all your funds in one item, or break them up.
- b. Commissioners participated in the budget exercise and turned their results into staff.
- c. It was noted that it would be good to have a deeper insight into resources already available or being expended in each of the areas. Saphira noted that this was part of the action steps she recommends in the report for the first year of implementation.
- d. Commissioners noted that we need to figure out the \$62 million figure for the recommendation for Universal Pre-K – what does that number get you and what is already budgeted in the schools? It may be higher than actual costs due to pre-committed funds and the number of children who would enroll.
- e. Mayor Fraim asked Saphira to provide her recommendations again on the structure moving forward. Saphira recommended that the City work with an existing entity as a coordinating entity – a human service organization, a planning organization, or a philanthropic organization that can coordinate the efforts moving forward. The City should have a lead representative that would be on the steering committee and the director would also benefit from direct access to the Mayor and City Manager.

IV. Evaluation of Process and Results

- a. Saphira asked Commissioners take some time to fill out the evaluation survey. She noted that this is for the City as well as for Communitas Consulting, and is designed to help improve processes for the future and plan for next steps.

V. Closing Remarks

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- a. Saphira noted that her work with the City of Norfolk has been tremendously rewarding, motivating, and compelling. She thanked the group for their engagement and investment in the process, saying that it was a challenge and a delight to reflect upon all their good work and put it into a document that reflected all the content and wisdom they shared this past year.
- b. Saphira shared her confidence that Norfolk will be a leader in reducing poverty for future generations, and that they can be proud of being part of the legacy and sense of urgency going forward. She noted that she looks forward to public presentation of the plan and coming back to see the results over time.
- c. Vice Mayor Williams also thanked the group and noted that she appreciates their time and energy. She also thanked the subject matter experts and the presenters that were brought in. She noted that their work will help the Council do good work and that the year went by too fast. She makes two announcements.
 - i. Resource Fair – June 28th from 9 to 12 at Scope. Flyers were handed out and an electronic version will be sent to Commissioners to share with their organizations and relevant participants. Vice Mayor invited everyone to attend.
 - ii. Sharon Riley, Commission Member, received her Ph.D. during the course of our work; Vice Mayor congratulates her.
- d. Mayor Fraim thanked the group. He noted that the plan will be presented by Vice Mayor Williams and Councilman Protogyrou on July 8th in Council Chambers (11th floor of City Hall). He invited the Commission to attend. He also noted that they will schedule a public hearing before adopting the plan as a formal piece of police. He said that he would like the entire Commission to move forward together and committed to finding money to make a significant impact on poverty. He mentioned dedicated funding to move the plan forward in the first year and asked the Commission to get back together in September to check in and keep the plan on track. He also invited Chuck McPhillips to present a letter to City Council on the Success Sequence and to look for a credible group to do the study. Chuck stated that he appreciated the Mayor's diplomacy and would prepare a letter and address Council on the 8th.